

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior claims, and listings of claims, in the application:

Claims 1-28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (currently amended): A vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus ~~comprising~~
having a vehicle surroundings monitoring program configured to:

~~first means for detecting at least~~ detect solid object information ahead of an own vehicle
based on signals from a camera of the own vehicle;

~~second means for estimating~~ estimate a travel path of the own vehicle based on signals from
at least one of the camera, a yaw rate sensor, a vehicle speed sensor and a steering angle sensor of
the own vehicle;

~~third means for recognizing~~ recognize a preceding vehicle traveling in front of the travel
path of the own vehicle based on the solid object information;

~~fourth means for judging~~ judge whether there is any forward traveling object, which travels
in the same direction as the own vehicle, other than the preceding vehicle based on the solid object
information;

~~fifth means for setting~~ set a parameter in response to both a lengthwise and a widthwise
distance of the preceding vehicle from the own vehicle;

~~sixth means for adjusting~~ adjust the parameter in a case where any forward traveling object
other than the preceding vehicle has been judged;

~~seventh means for judging~~ judge whether the adjusted parameter is larger than a threshold
value; and

~~eighth means for judging~~ output a signal indicating that the preceding vehicle is not traveling
in front of the travel path of the own vehicle in a case where the adjusted parameter is larger than
the threshold value ~~and outputting a signal.~~

Claim 30 (previously presented): The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the parameter is cleared when the lengthwise distance is farther than a preestablished distance.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the parameter is set to increase when the preceding vehicle is in a region comprising an area of a predetermined width and length around the travel path of the own vehicle.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the parameter is set to increase as the preceding vehicle approaches the own vehicle region.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A travel control system for controlling the travel of an own vehicle at least based on the output signal from the vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus described in claim 29.